

2. (previously amended) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that each spun yarn has a twist that is equal to or greater than 6 more turns per inch than that of the ply twisted composite yarn.

3. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the second yarn is a spun yarn.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that at least a portion of the staple fiber is a synthetic material.

8. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the staple fiber is composed of one or more synthetic polymers.

9. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the staple fiber is selected from the group consisting of wool, cotton, nylon, polyester, rayon, polyethylene, polypropylene, aramid, meta-aramid and mixtures thereof.

10. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the staple fiber is polyester.

11. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the staple fiber is composed of staple that averages less than about 2 inches in length.

12. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the staple fiber is composed of staple less than about 1.5 denier/filament.

13. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 further characterized in that the ply twisted composite yarn has a twist equal to at no more than 4 turns per inch less than the twist of the individual spun yarns.

14. (original) The sewing thread of claim 1 where the individual spun yarns, prior to being plied, have a tensile strength that is less than the tensile strength of the ply twisted composite yarn.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A 2-ply sewing thread comprising, in combination,
at least one spun yarn ply twisted together with a second yarn in a first direction about each other
along a common axis to form a ply twisted composite yarn, where the spun yarn contains 100%
staple fibers, has a single twist equal to or greater than 17 turns per inch, is twisted in the

opposite direction of the ply twisted composite yarn, and has a TEX equal to about 105, where the twist of the ply twisted composite is not greater than 13 turns per inch.

22. (new) A 2-ply sewing thread comprising, in combination, at least one spun yarn ply twisted together with a second yarn in a first direction about each other along a common axis to form a ply twisted composite yarn, where the spun yarn contains 100% staple fibers, has a single twist between 17 turns per inch and 20 turns per inch, is twisted in the opposite direction of the ply twisted composite yarn, and has a TEX equal to about 105, where the twist of the ply twisted composite is not greater than 13 turns per inch.

23. (new) A 2-ply sewing thread comprising, in combination, two spun yarns ply twisted together in a first direction about each other along a common axis to form a ply twisted composite yarn, where the spun yarns contains 100% staple fibers, each having a single twist between 17 turns per inch and 20 turns per inch, is twisted in the opposite direction of the ply twisted composite yarn, and has a TEX equal to about 105, where the twist of the ply twisted composite is not greater than 13 turns per inch.